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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6530

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XF
SUBJECT: REINFORCED NAC SESSION ON SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: USNATO 6454

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. SINCE THE NOVEMBER 20 NAC CONSULTATION ON
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MISSION HAS HEARD AN EXTRAOR-
DINARY AMOUNT OF GENERAL PRAISE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THAT MEETING AND
NUMEROUS SPECIFIC COMPLIMENTS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON'S CONTRIBUTION TO IT. THIS PRAISE HAS COME FROM LARGER
AND SMALLER ALLIES ALIKE, FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND A NUMBER
OF TOP OFFICIALS ON THE IS AND IMS, AND IT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED NOT
ONLY BY PERMREPS ON THEIR OWN BEHALF BUT ALSO ON BEHALF OF THEIR
AUTHORITIES WHO WERE EVIDENTLY PLEASED WITH THE DEPTH AND VALUE
OF THE EXCHANGE.

2. MISSION REGARDS THIS REACTION AS SIGNIFICANT FOR THE FOLLOW-
ING REASONS:
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A) IT SUGGEST SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF
THE CONSULTATION ITSELF, I.E. MUTUAL EDUCATION AND SHARING OF
ALLIED VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH PERHAPS SOME BONUS IN TERMS
OF PERSUASION TOWARD U.S. VIEWS.

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B) THIS EXCHANGE REPRESENTS A MEANINGFUL GIVE AND TAKE CONSULTATION AMONG NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN AN AREA GEOGRAPHICALLY OUTSIDE THE NATO TREATY AREA.

C) WE THINKTHE U.S. HAS HIT UPON A CONSULTATION FORMULA WHICH (1) HAS MOST OF THE ADVANTAGES OF A STRAIGHT U.S. BRIEFING OF OUR ALLIES; (2) THE ASSURANCE THAT U. S. INPUT GOES IMMEDIATELY AND INTACT TO TARGET AUDIENCES; (3) THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN WHICH OTHERS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OUR FUND OF KNOWLEDGE. THE FORMULA MIGHT BE EXPRESSED AS FOLLOWS: GETTING DECISION MAKING (OR INFLUENCING) SENIOR ALLIED OFFICIALS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST TO COME FROM KEY CAPITALS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS IN THE COUNCIL ITSELF ON IMPORTANT CURRENT SUBJECTS.

3. ACCORDINGLY, THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:
A) THE U.S. EMBASSIES IN ALLIED CAPITALS BE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO EXPRESS U.S. SATISFACTION WITH THE CONDUCT AND RESULTS OF THIS CONSULTATION IN THE REINFORCED NAC, AND U.S. APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS MADE BY THE HOST ALLY TO CONRIBUTE TO THIS USEFUL EXCHANGE. IN PARTICULAR, EMBASSIES LONDON, BONN, ROME, AND THE HAUGE SHOULD EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION THAT THOSE CAPITALS MADE SENIOR MIDDLE EAST OFFICIALS AVAILABLE. WHILE FRANCE DID NOT SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE REINFORCED NAC, AMBASSADOR FRANCOIS DE ROSE MADE EXTRA AND VERY PERSONAL EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE USEFULLY TO THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. SUBJECT TO EMBASSY PARIS' VIEWS, PERHAPS A WORK OF THANKS AT THE QUAI MIGHT BE IN ORDER TOO.

B) IN FUTURE INSTANCES WHERE THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO BRIEF ITS NATO ALLIES ON DEVELOPEMENTS IN, FOR EXAMPLE, U.S-SOVIET SUMMIT MEETING, SALT NEGOTIATIONS, MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, ETC., THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF CONDUCTING SUCH BRIEFINGS UNDER THE RUBRIC OF A REINFORCED NAC TO WHICH KEY SENIOR ALLIED OFFICIALS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUBJECT IN HAND ARE INVITED TO COME FROM CAPITALS TO PARTICIPATE. A STRAIGHT COUNCIL
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MEETING CONVENED TO HEAR A BRIEFING BY A VISITING SENIOR ALLIED OFFICIAL IS BETTER THAN BRIEFINGS OF NATO AMBASSADORS IN CAPITALS; BUT THE REINFORCED NAC WITH SOLID PARTICIPATION FROM MAJOR ALLIED CAPITALS WOULD SEEM TO BE THE "BEST YET."
MCAULIFFE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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